

Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

FALLOUT INCREASE DATA COINCIDES WITH GENEVA PESSIMISM

The release by Senator Clinton P. Anderson, shortly after mid-March, of a showing much greater hazards in radioactive fallout than had been predicted, has coincided with increasingly pessimistic word from Washington concerning the likelihood of success of the three-power conference on ending of nuclear tests, now going on in Geneva.

Senator Anderson is chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. In releasing an exchange of letters that revealed the new fallout data, he observed that "the process of making public any fall-out information is an example of how difficult it is to make available to the public the information it is entitled to receive."

The new data, briefly, indicate that radioactive particles suspended in the earth's atmosphere as a result of the testing of nuclear weapons, fall out to earth at a much more rapid rate than had heretofore been supposed, and that the heaviest fallout is on the United States.

General Herbert B. Loper, whose letter contained the new information, estimated that the fallout, including cancer- and leukemia-inducing strontium-90, has a "residence half-life" in the upper atmosphere of two years, rather than the previously announced seven. This means that half the radioactive material may be expected to "rip out" in two years, half the remainder in two years more, etc.

The seriousness of the information is increased by the fact that the much heavier fallout also means, of course, that the particles reach the earth with a much higher degree of radioactivity.

The Approximate Experts

The new information on radioactive fallout, indicating a half-life of only two instead of seven years, creates no precedents in the second-thought department. The experts have a record of consistently underestimating the danger from radioactivity.

Between 1931 and 1957 four official assertions of the "maximum permissible radiation dose" were made in terms of "roentgens per week." Each was less than half the preceding figure, and the 1957 "permissible" dose was set at less than one-fourteenth the 1931 estimate.

In 1956 the British Association of Atomic Scientists estimated that by 1970 the tests already carried out would have meant a radiation dose to man's bones of 9 to 45 percent of the dose received from all natural sources. The new announcement presumably would increase this percentage substantially.

As usual, the Defense Department's information observed that the danger is "much less" than from such everyday hazards as "X-rays, automobiles, chemical contaminants, household cleaners, etc." (More than 30,000 persons are killed and 2 million injured annually by automobile accidents in the United States alone.) Gen. Loper's letter added, however, that "the probable casualties attributable to radioactive isotopes from weapons testing when summed over the populations of thousands of years create a moral issue that could be of considerable propaganda importance."

(Continued on next page)

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Fallout Increase Data^r (cont'd)

At Geneva the 6-months-old conference on ending the testing adjourned until April 13. In December the conferees, representing the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and the United States, seemed to be heading for agreement when they bypassed procedural difficulties and accepted drafts of treaty provisions on several sensitive points. Since then there has been almost no progress, with each side accusing the other of stalling and attempting to sabotage the conference. In this country, news stories have become quite open in acknowledging that neither the Pentagon nor the Atomic Energy Commission want to have agreement reached, and the head of the U. S. delegation, Ambassador James W. Wadsworth, has indicated that American public opinion is needed to strengthen efforts to reach agreement.

Supreme Court Rejects ROTC Waiver for COs

By a 7-2 vote, the U. S. Supreme Court refused in February to review a 25-year-old decision allowing state universities to reject conscientious objectors who will not participate in compulsory ROTC programs. The case arose when two COs, who had already served two years each in civilian work assignments, were barred from the University of Maryland.

The Central Committee for COs has issued a new 12-page pamphlet listing schools that exempt COs from ROTC. Copies are obtainable from the FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

Death Penalty Held in 3 States

In three states last month, bills to abolish capital punishment were defeated. In West Virginia, a Church-backed proposal was defeated by a vote of 83-17. In New York, a bill to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment in cases of first-degree murder received a vote of 73-60, but fell short of the 76 votes required for passage. Earlier in the session a similar bill was defeated 67-62.

In Illinois a bill which would have abolished the death penalty for a one-year trial period likewise fell three votes short of passage, although state representatives favored it, with 77 opposed.

Throughout the nation, evidence of growing sentiment against capital punishment was seen in a record 11 of 48 executions, of which 40 were for murder, one for kidnapping and seven (all Negroes) for rape.

Survey Shows Strong Opinions, Weak Knowledge, on Berlin

"President Eisenhower's no-retreat policy on Berlin has overwhelming support in the nation though many Americans know little about the history and geography of the crisis."

That lead sentence summed up admirably a survey made by *The New York Times* reported in its March 23 issue. On a crisis that could plunge the world into nuclear war, the American people are "ill-informed but truly full of the Administration and particularly of the President..."

Teen-agers and college students were found to be better informed than their elders.

Midwesterners and Southwesterners seemed more familiar with the background of the crisis than those in other parts of the country. In and around New York City 75 percent of those questioned did not know Berlin is in East German Communist-controlled territory. In the Midwest the figure was 23 percent; in Los Angeles 40; San Francisco Bay Area 56; and the Southeastern states 58 percent.

THE FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION

FOR member Martin Luther King Jr. returned to the U. S. last month after a month-long stay in India. At his first press conference in New Delhi, Dr. King said India should take the lead in calling for universal disarmament."

German FOR members Martin Niebler and Heinz Kloppenburg led a demonstration at the airport in Dortmund, Westphalia, last month to protest the stationing of a British rocket unit in the area. The protesters carried posters that said "Stop Atomic Warfare" and "No Atomic Weapons in Europe."

The *Journal of Human Relations*, Summer and Winter 1958-59, edition, devotes three pages to a description of the work of the FOR, particularly in intergroup relations. The *Journal*, published by Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio, gives half the issue to an exploration of groups and agencies active in intergroup relations.

A summer peace leadership training workshop has been announced by the Philadelphia-Middle Atlantic FOR. It will encourage college students to take summer jobs in Philadelphia and devote weekends and some weekdays to pacifist projects. The workshop will run from June 29 to August 9; information may be had by writing to Regional Secretary Charles Walker, 2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3.

A comprehensive book list on pacifism and its related concerns is in preparation by the FOR. In the current phase of the project, a 16-page mimeographed list that includes some 400 books chosen by a group of 20 consultants is being circulated to more than 50 people for further additions and changes in the list. Copies of the finished bibliography will be made available to libraries and researchers when ready, and a much shorter, highly selective annotated list will be printed for readers who want to be better informed as pacifists. The list includes books on

nonviolence, conscientious objectors, war and the state, religious resources, philosophy, psychology and other areas as they relate to peace.

Schedules for the Church Peace Mission Conference, to be held April 20-23 in Evanston, Ill., are now available from New England FOR Secretary Robert Gussner, 10 Kirkland Rd., Cambridge 38, Mass. Speakers at the Conference, which is titled "The Word of God in the Nuclear Age," will include Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, president of the National Council of Churches; noted Methodist pastor Henry Hitt Crane; Dr. Howard Schomer, president of the Chicago Theological Seminary; and Prof. John Oliver Nelson of the Yale Divinity School. All four men are members of the FOR.

Arthelia Brooks is planning a biography of her late husband, Arle Brooks, who worked for the American Friends Service Committee and was one of the first men to be imprisoned for refusing to register for the draft. Anyone who has memories of Arle Brooks is urged to write Mrs. Arthelia Brooks, Route 5, Burnsville, N. C.

IFOR efforts toward bridging the East-West gap bore fruit last year when the Roman Catholic monthly, *Więź*, published in Warsaw, Poland, featured a symposium titled: *Konfrontacje: Non-violence w teorii i praktyce*, consisting of articles by IFOR Traveling Secretary Hildegard Goss-Mayr and three Polish churchmen. The articles discuss the IFOR's program and related activities.

In February, the home of FOR members Henry and Beatrice Dyer of Yellow Springs, Ohio, was seized for non-payment of Federal income taxes. The Dyers have made it a practice to donate to peace groups that portion of their income tax that would be used for military expenditures if paid to the government.

Scientists Criticize Missile, Space Program

Two scientists voiced harsh criticism of America's missile and space program at a conference held last month at the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Louis J. Ridenour Jr., of Lockheed Aircraft, said the missile program followed the country's "traditional economy of waste." "We turn in our cars before they are worn out," he said, "and the nation would go broke if we didn't. Our missile program fits into the system very well. We send up missiles that never come back, and so we have to make more missiles."

Another conference speaker, Dr. A. J. R. Grosch, manager of space programs for the International Business Machines Corporation, called the missile program "the swan song of a dying civilization."

"There isn't any point to zooming off into space," said Dr. Grosch. "We could spend the money better solving problems here at home--taking care of our overcrowded, underfed millions. If we did that we wouldn't need to find new worlds to colonize."

Laurence Housman Dies at 93

Laurence Housman, English playwright, artist, Peace Pledge Union sponsor and namesake of the pacifist Housmans Bookshop, died in London on Feb. 20 at the age of 93. His best-known play was *Victoria Regina*.

FELLOWSHIP

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 14. FOR Luncheon Meeting "Alternatives to Prison," talk by Leeb Foote, at the Artists Hut, 2006 Walnut St., Philadelphia, 12:20 sharp. Bring lunch.

April 17-19. San Diego Institute of International Relations, at Calif. Western Univ., "The Arms Race or the Human Race." Speakers include Philip Noel-Baker, Neal D. Houghton, John A. Manly. Write: San Diego FOR, 4262 Altamira Way, San Diego 3, Calif.

April 20-23. Church Peace Mission Conference at First Baptist Church, Evanston, Ill. Write: A. J. Muste, CPM, 11 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

April 23-25. FOR National Council meetings at Evanston, Ill. Write: Alfred Hassler, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

May 5. New York FOR Annual Dinner at Christ Church (Methodist), featuring Rep. Byron Johnson. Write: A. J. Muste, NYFOR, 1133 Broadway, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

May 8. Philadelphia FOR Annual Dinner. Speaker: Rep. Byron Johnson. Write: Philadelphia Area FOR, 200 Walnut St., Phila. 3, Pa.

May 22-23. New England FOR Fellowship Days. Write: Rev. Robert Gussner, 10 Kirkland Road, Cambridge 38, Mass.

August 15-18. FOR Family Camp at Green Lake, Wis.

August 18-22. FOR National Conference, at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Write: Glenn Smiley, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

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THAT MEN MAY LIVE
PEACE · TRUTH · SOCIAL JUSTICE



PEACE GROUPS DEMONSTRATE FOR GENEVA AGREEMENT

In cities throughout the United States last month, pacifists and others rallied in "Act for Peace" demonstrations to call a halt to nuclear weapons tests and to urge negotiators at the Geneva talks to reach agreement on atomic disarmament. In New York, on March 28, FOR Secretary Emeritus A. J. Muste, Socialist leader Norman Thomas and others addressed a meeting of 600 people, mostly high school and college youth. In his speech Thomas termed Britain, the U.S. and the USSR as members of a "nuclear club" joined together in an "insane" defensive attitude. On 42nd Street, near Times Square, passers-by read the issues presented over a loudspeaker located in the Sane Nuclear Policy Information Center, and many milled out inside, examining photos and for inexpensive literature about the H-bomb campaign. Earlier, Senator Humphrey informed the FOR that he had introduced a resolution to the U.S. Senate that would register support for Geneva negotiations.

In Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and elsewhere during the East-weekend, demonstrators walked to a central location from various outlying points on what would be the perimeter of a 20-megaton H-bomb blast. The size of the demonstrations varied from city to city: Philadelphia, 100;

Photo above shows Dr. William Davidson addressing rally of 600. In Chicago other speakers included Rep. William H. Meyer (D-Vt.), at left of rostrum; FOR member Rockwell Smith; Gunnar Peterson; Mulford Sibley and Jack Bollins. Meyer was fourth man in a group of 250 that marched down Michigan Avenue, led by FOR National Council member Carl Keith. Banner behind speakers includes FOR and AFSC emblems and slogans. Photo of Boston "Act for Peace" on p. 3.

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Dahlberg Asks Prayers for Tibet

Following news of the Chinese Communist coup in Tibet, which the U. S. "deterrent" policy failed to deter, President Edwin T. Dahlberg of the National Council of Churches called upon Christians to "pray for the persecuted people of Tibet and for the end of their persecution." Thousands of Tibetans have been killed and thousands more have fled Tibet, Dr. Dahlberg said. He also asked prayers "for more humaneness, the rule of law, and the reign of good will among men," and said that Church World Service was rushing emergency relief supplies to the areas where the refugees are gathering.

British Peace Action Group Polls Candidates on Disarmament

In England last month 33 members of Parliament and prospective candidates went on record in support of unilateral nuclear disarmament by their country and the renunciation of policies and alliances based on nuclear arms. Responding to a questionnaire from the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War sent out at the end of January, 30 Labor party and 3 Liberal party candidates took the "unilateral" position; of those, 6 Laborites and one Liberal said they would be willing to defy the line of their respective party if necessary. As of March 19, a total of 86 replies were in: 44 from Laborites, 23 (all negative) from Conservatives and 19 from Liberals.

In a public-opinion poll in S. Norfolk, 384 out of 1186 voters canvassed have expressed support for lateral nuclear disarmament, and these more than half said they would vote for a candidate upholding view, while over a hundred more said they would consider taking this position.

FOR member Michael Scott is among the members of the Committee, who is conducting a "voters' veto" campaign to withhold votes from candidates who oppose unilateral nuclear disarmament. Its chief hope is to influence Labor party policy.

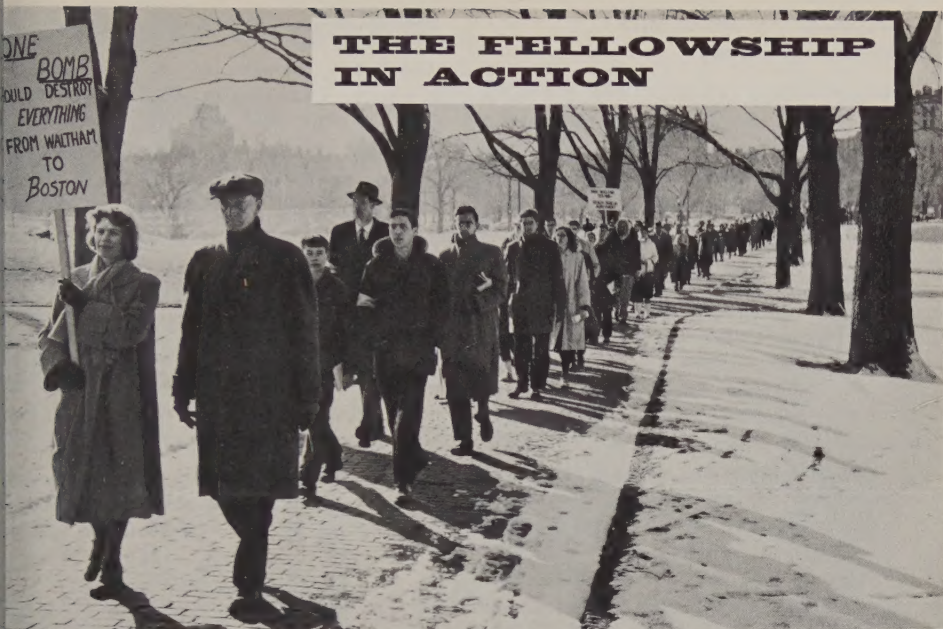
60 Americans Protest Negro's Sentence

More than sixty Americans prominent in religious, educational and other fields early this month made public letter to U. S. Attorney General William P. Rogers protesting the arrest, beating and imprisonment of a Bessemer, Alabama, Negro leader.

The protest, initiated by the FO, referred to the arrest of Asbury Howard, active church worker and labor leader in Bessemer, for ordering from a sign painter a poster reproducing a newspaper cartoon. The cartoon, showing a Negro in chains, had added to it in the poster the words "Vote today for a brighter tomorrow." Howard had planned to display it in the hall where the Negro group met. He was arrested before the poster was completed, tried and sentenced to six months on a chain gang. While in court he was surrounded by fifty white men and beaten while fifteen police watched. No arrest was made except of Howard's son, who came to his father's aid. He has been sentenced to a year.

Among the signers of the letter to Rogers were Norman Thomas, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Dr. John A. Mackay, Dean Lis Pope, Norman Cousins, former Senator Frank P. Graham, and A. J. Muste.

A copy of the full statement may be obtained by writing to FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.



THE FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION

IT FOR PEACE: In snow-covered Boston, 83-year-old FOR Honorary Chairman George L. Paine heads procession through Boston Common. Carrying poster is Carol Gussner, wife of FOR Secretary Robert Gussner, fourth from left.

European Pacifism Growing, FOR Leaders Report

Interest in pacifism is growing in Europe, according to reports by leaders of the International FOR who met in Versailles, France, January 30--February 2.

In France, all COs who have served more than five years in prison have been released, according to Andre Trocme, although efforts to obtain a law providing for an alternative service program had failed. Ten French pastors are now preaching pacifism from their pulpits. Among nonpacifists, according to Magda Trocme, there is growing opposition to nuclear armaments, and the FOR has taken the lead in promoting a federation of all non-communist anti-nuclear groups.

In both Italy and France, the Protestant churches are slowly coming near to pacifism, Magda reported. A commission of the Waldensian Church recommended last year that its members be urged to be COs, and the church, after rejecting the proposal, has decided to discuss it again next year.

Among the Walloons in Belgium, chiefly due to the efforts of Philippe Vernier, there is now a group of about 50 Protestant pacifists, and two Roman Catholic priests in the same area have shown interest in pacifism.

In Germany, said Heinz Kloppenburg, the Evangelical Fraternities were doing some work along FOR lines, and the FOR (*Versohnungsbund*) itself was "growing in some places." Support by the German churches was expected soon for Eirene, the Christian pacifist work camp program. Dr. Kloppenburg also reported "good progress" in East-West talks among churchmen in Frankfurt-am-Main in January. Another conference will be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, April 16-19.

Hildegard Goss, IFOR Traveling Secretary who toured the U.S. last fall, is preparing an FOR leaflet to be printed in Russian for distribution among Soviet delegates to the Vienna Youth Festival this summer.

On April 7, IFOR Secretary E. Philip Eastman arrived in the U.S. for a month of speaking engagements.

Strontium-90 Hazard in Milk Shown By CU Survey

In a ten-page report, "The Milk We drink," in the March issue of *Consumer Reports*, a nationwide survey conducted by Consumers Union has found "incontrovertible evidence that the strontium-90 content of milk has been increasing since 1954."

In such cities as New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Boston, between 13.7 and 15.6 Strontium Units were found in milk samples -- the equivalent of about 2-3 rads of radiation dosage. The maximum "permissible" dosage is 30 rads, but radiation from diagnostic X-rays and natural sources already account for as much as 10 to 20 rads in the average American.

Although in some cities such as Los Angeles the Strontium-90 concentration in milk was found to be as low as 1.9 S. U., in July-August 1958, the national average was about 8 S. U., or as much as 2 S.U. more than in 1957.

Since the rate of strontium fallout is not geographically uniform, variations might occur in which, in "hot" areas, the concentration might range as high as 50 S. U. -- "more than half the currently recommended maximum 'permissible' concentration," *Consumers Reports* said. In other words it is possible that if an unusually heavy fallout occurred in a big city, many people who had already received 20 rads from other sources might be seriously affected.

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May 7. Boston FOR annual election speaker Allan Knight Chalmers, Friends Center, Cambridge, Mass. 8 p.m. Write: Ellen Riggs, 92 Arlington St., Winchester, Mass.

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